The Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection

The purpose of the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection is to preserve, organize, expand, and share the documented history of the Yale family. Building upon the earlier work of Elihu Yale (1850), Rodney Horace Yale (1908), and Donald Rodney Yale (1980), the Collection integrates traditional genealogical methods with modern online research, artificial intelligence, and archival preservation. It is intended to serve both as a permanent Yale family archive and as a research resource that will continue to grow and improve with each generation. You are encouraged to contribute new manuscripts or revise editions under your own authorship as part of the Collection.

The Collection has these components:

- **Manuscripts**. Biographies of the ancestors of Rodney Horace Yale and many of his descendents. Biographies of selected Yale extended family members. Research papers on Yale Coat of Arms and other topics. Digital Archives are maintained in Archive.Org.

- **Research Library**. Books, journals, and research materials documenting Yale ancestry, Welsh history, heraldry, and related historical subjects.

- **Artifacts.** Original historical documents, artwork, memorabilia, and family objects that illustrate the history of the Yale family and its Welsh heritage.

- **Photographic and Audio-Visual Collection** . A large collection of historical photos and albums; CD's derived from early 8 mm family videos; Old voice tape recordings.

- **Genealogy Website Profiles.** All our Ancestor profiles in WikiTree, FamilySearch, FindaGrave, and Wikipedia reference Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection biographies. In addition, we take the lead role in ancestor profile maintenance in FamilySearch, as well as in most ancestor profiles in Wikitree.

Few American family genealogies are as extensively documented as that of the Yales. In 1850, the New Haven, Connecticut genealogist Elihu Yale (1807–1881) published *The Yale Family*, an ambitious effort to record all known Yales in the United States, as well as ancestral lines in England and Wales. This work formed the foundation of Rodney Horace Yale's 1908 volume, *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*, which remains widely cited by modern genealogical sources. Rodney's grandson, Don Yale, later served as the family historian and, together with his brothers, produced the expanded 1980 edition of that work, commonly known as *The Yales and Wales*.

In 2010, Max Brian Yale began preparing fully sourced biographies with citations for each ancestor of Rodney Horace Yale, along with many of his descendants. This effort grew to become the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection, in which the manuscripts are just one part of the whole collection.

Manuscripts

The Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection manuscripts were prepared using Google Docs and are available as PDFs in Archive.Org. The purpose of these manuscripts are to:

- Provide more details about Yale ancestors beyond basic information, including contemporary history during their lifetimes.
- Provide images and illustrations not not normally found in genealogical web sites
- Provide good citation references for Wikitree, FamilySearch, FindaGrave, and Wikipedia for each ancestor.
- Offer "Research Notes" for controversial or unsupported claims about our ancestors
- Ultimately, honor each ancestor, especially those lesser known, with the recognition they deserve.

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For details on these manuscripts, see: Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection

For quick links to Yale Ancestors online, see: Directory of Biographies and Online Resources

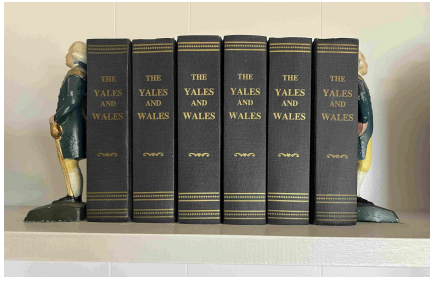
To maintain and expand these manuscripts requires some knowledge of Archive.Org and the genealogy websites Wikitree, FamilySearch, and FindaGrave. For instructions, see: Admin Guide

Research Library

These are the books currently in the library:

- Bingham, Hiram. *Elihu Yale: The American Nabob of Queen Square*. Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1968.
- Burke, Ashworth P. *Family Records*. London: Harrison and Sons, 1897.
- Davies, John. *A History of Wales*. London: Allen Lane, The Penguin Press, 1980. If you want to understand ancient Yale history, start here. This book was very useful in understanding the Welsh historical context of the lives of Yale ancestors.
- Knight, Bernard. *Lion Rampant: The Story of Owain and Nest*. Bath, England: Back-in-Print Books, 2004. Paperback. A fictional account of Princess Nesta and her abduction by Owain ap Cadwgan.
- Palmer, Alfred Neobard. *A History of the County Townships of the Old Parish of Wrexham*. Wrexham: Hughes and Son, 1903. Palmer was a well-known local historian. Rodney Horace Yale corresponded with him regarding Plas Grono.
- Rhys, John, and David Brynmor-Jones. *The Welsh People*. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1906.
- Roberts, Norman C. *Baja California Plant Field Guide*. La Jolla, CA: Natural History Publishing, 1989. Norman was not part of Wales history, but included in the extended family as a wealthy civic leader and environmentalist.
- Rowlands, John, and Sheila Rowlands. *The Surnames of Wales*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996. Paperback.
- Rowlands, John, and Sheila Rowlands. *Welsh Family History: A Guide to Research*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998. Paperback.
- Terry, Janice. *William Yale: Witness to Partition in the Middle East*. London: Rimal Publications, 2015. Paperback. This book was provided by Theresa Shackelford emptyshack@me.com He was a cohort of Lawrence of Arabia.
- Williams-Jones, Keith. *The Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll, 1292–1293*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1976. Provides definitive proof that Osborn Wyddel was living at Cors-y-Gedol in 1292.
- Wrexham Area Civic Society. *Elihu Yale: The Great Welsh American*. Wrexham: Wrexham Area Civic Society, 1991. Pamphlet.
- Yale, Donald Rodney, et al. *The Yales and Wales*. 2nd ed. San Diego, CA: Privately printed, 1980. Revised and expanded from Rodney Horace Yale's 1908 work. Six copies available.
- Yale, Elihu. *The Yale Family; or, The Descendants of David Yale*. New Haven, CT: Storer and Stone, Printers, 1850. Very rare. Used by Rodney Horace Yale as the principal source for his book - *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*.

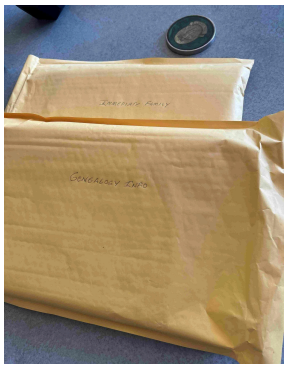
- Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908. Three copies available.



Yale and Wales, 1980 Edition

Yale Ancestry Research Library

In addition, numerous documents and research materials are held in two large envelopes - “Immediate Family” and “Genealogy Info”.



Artifacts

Several Yale artifacts are included, some of which are considered historically valuable:

Object: An original framed parchment document - 1718 Tax Assessment signed and sealed by David Yale.

Object: repoussé copper rendering of the Yale coat of arms

About 1990, Max Raymond Yale created this repoussé copper rendering of the Yale coat of arms. See the History of the Yale Coat of Arms for more information.

Object: Section of Antique Gilt Leather Wall Hanging (*Cuir de Cordoue* / *Guadamecí*) from 1640-1680

Origin: The Oak Room, Plas Newydd, Llangollen, Wales

Lineage & History:

- **c. 1640–1680:** Likely manufactured during the Baroque period as an embossed, silver-leafed, and hand-painted *cuir de Cordoue* (Spanish leather) wall hanging. The exact place of manufacture is unknown but may have been Spain, the Spanish Netherlands, the Dutch Republic, or England.
- **Late 19th Century:** Believed to have been acquired and installed at Plas Newydd, during the ownership of General John Yorke, whose extensive restoration and decoration of the house incorporated historic architectural fragments and decorative materials.
- **1970s:** During restoration and conservation work at Plas Newydd, loose or deteriorated fragments of the leather wall covering are believed to have been removed and preserved.
- **1979:** Acquired by **Max Brian Yale** during a visit to Plas Newydd. The section was presented to him by **Sara Pugh Jones**, Llangollen librarian, local historian, and author of *Plas Newydd and the Ladies*, in the presence of local historian **Gordon Sherratt**. Sara Pugh Jones stated that the section had been used as wall covering at Plas Newydd and was "over 200 years old."

1979–Present: Privately framed and held as part of the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection.

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Object: British Ordnance Survey Map

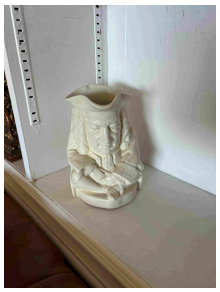
Description:

One-Inch (per mile) “Popular Edition” (Sheet 51)
Covering Wrexham and Oswestry
Published 1921
Acquired 1979 in Oswestry by Max Brian Yale
The upper left area includes Plas-yn-Yale, underlined in red

Object: Patented Tube Holders

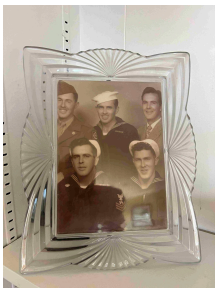
A group of about 100 patented tube holders, which were intended to be used with WD-40 cans but they opted for a different solution.

Other artifacts include:

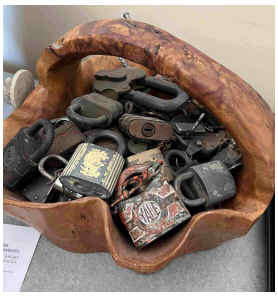


Elihu Yale Toby

(2) Yale Mixtures



The Five Brothers



Yale Lock Collection

A glass box containing Yale antiques and memorabilia

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Also included is a large envelope labeled “Art and Artifacts” contains:

- Slide Rule used by Max Raymond Yale
- A framed postcard of the Yale Steamer that traveled out of San Diego
- A postcard of Mount Yale in Colorado
- A framed copy of the Yale Coat of Arms
- A copy of the artwork commissioned by William A. Yale of Plas yn Yale
- A fold-out historical map of England and Wales
- An elaborate family tree of David and Ann Yale by Elihu Yale in 1850 (may be inaccurate)

There are some additional artifacts and maps included in a large envelope labeled 1979 Trip to Wales.

Photographic and Audio-Visual Collection

The collection includes a large number of photos that have been passed down through at least 4 generations.

There is a very good album prepared by Lynne Yale with annotations:

There is a large group of pre-1930 photos and albums contained in a large envelope:

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Another large envelope has many pictures from the period 1920-1960:

Here are the tapes and CD's that are in the collection:

This includes:

- 3 copies of an interview of Max Raymond Yale by Brian Yale in 1991, shortly after his wife Midge died.
- 4 copies of Yale Family 8 mm videos from 1960-1970, including Brian and Charlene before marriage.
- 4 copies of Max, Brian, Scott and Chris golfing at Castle Creek in 1992
- 4 copies of Early Yale videos from 1936-1958
- 1 copy of Yale Brother Oldies (done by Yvonne Yale)
- 2 audio tapes of Midge Yale playing the piano - one with Christmas carols
- 8 audio tapes taken in 1979 during the trip to Wales, including two with historian Gordon Sherritt

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Genealogy Website Profiles

Each ancestor has an online presence in several places:

- Archive.Org has the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection Biographies
- WikiTree ancestors where Max Brian Yale is the profile manager will have a reduced version of the biography and cite the biography as a reference. For all other ancestors, the profile may have limited to no input from Collection but in every case will have the biography referenced as a source
- FamilySearch ancestors in most cases will have a reduced version of the biography and cite the biography as a reference. In some cases this is done through the notes section instead of the Brief Bio section
- Find a Grave will have very limited bio information but will reference the collection biography in cases where Max Brian Yale is the Memorial Manager
- For Wikipedia, Ancestors that have pre-existing biographies reference our collection biographies as “Further Reading”. There are about 11 ancestors currently in Wikipedia.

One advantage to getting “Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection” present as inbound links on these sites is to improve SEO ranking, so searches for specific ancestors will directly reference our collection.

See the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection Admin Guide on how to manage Website Profiles..